

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for her careful consideration of the present patent application.

In this amendment, claims 1, 17, and 41 have been amended. These claims now specify that the adhesive composition consists essentially of hemicellulose and water. It is believed that the amendment of these claims is sufficient to overcome all of the rejections of record. The Section 112 rejection of claim 17 has been addressed by way of a non-narrowing claim amendment.

New claims 54-60 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of a laminate or prepreg that is fashioned from an adhesive that includes corn hull hemicellulose as a bonding agent, the corn hull hemicellulose being present in an amount of at least 45% by weight of the bonding agent in the composition. The Ayla reference teaches wood or straw hemicellulose decomposition products, and is thus inapposite. Hsu teaches to use wood hemicellulose as a "unique component" (*see* col. 2 l. 56), and thus teaches away from the use of corn hull hemicellulose (and likewise, the combination of Ayla with Hsu does not lead to the claimed invention). The Examiner cites to Hsu at col. 2, 11, 30-40 and col. 4, 11, 55-60 for a teaching that it is known to bond wood plies with hemicellulose in amounts of 10% or 50% respectively, but the Hsu reference is not seen to provide such teachings, and in any event the reference still teaches away from the invention of claims 54-60. Hicklin suggests that hemicellulose may be used as a *sizing agent*, but does not suggest that hemicellulose (much less corn hull hemicellulose) may be used in an amount of at least 45% in the context of the invention.

Even in view of the existence of corn hull hemicellulose in the art, there is no suggestion in the art to employ corn hull hemicellulose in the claimed amounts in the context of the invention of claims 54-60. The cited art is seen to teach away from the claimed invention, and, in light of such teaching away, one of ordinary skill in the art

would find no motivation to substitute corn hull hemicellulose in the claimed amounts for the products discussed in the cited art.

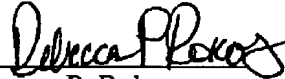
Finally, the specification has been amended at page 5 to specify that the hemicellulose may be present in an amount of at least 50% by dry weight of the bonding agent in the adhesive composition. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment, because the 50% limitation was found in some of the originally filed claims (*see, e.g., claim 6*).

CONCLUSION

A prompt Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3/10/04


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